

Message Text

SECRET

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44

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----- 016523

R 051050Z JUL 76
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE 5201

S E C R E T JIDDA 4692

EXDIS

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECDEF INFO USCINCEUR JIDDA
AND DISTNGR RIYADH FROM CHUSMTM DHAHRAN JULY 2
REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO

QUOTE

S E C R E T NOFORN DISSEM SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR LTG FISH, INFO
MG RYDER, AMB PORTER AND BG WELLS, FROM COL BATTREAL.
SUBJ: COMMAND AND CONTROL IN SAUDI ARABIA (U)

A. DISTENFR 301003Z JUN 76 (NOTAL)

B. PROPOSED PLAN FOR THE AMALGAMATION OF THE... SOCP AND THE...
USMTM ADVISORY EFFORT, 6JUN 76.

1. '(U) BG AHMANN IS ON EMERGENCY LEAVE. I HAVE DELIBERATELY NOT
INFORMED HIM OF THIS MESSAGE FOR FEAR HE WOULD SHORTEN THE LEAVE
WHICH BOTH HE AND HIS FAMILY SO BADLY NEED. HE PLANS TO CALL AT
THE PENTAGON ENROUTE BACK TO SAUDI ARABIA LATER THIS MONTH AND CAN
DISCUSS THIS SUBJECT AT THAT TIME. MEANWHILE, I AM CONFIDENT HE
WILL AGREE WITH THE SUBSTANCE OF PARAGRAPHS -5 BELOW. YOU MAY
WISH ALSO TO DISCUSS PARAGRAPHS 4 AND 5 WITH BG LAWRENCE, CURRENTLY
TDY IN CONUS.

2. (C) THE TEXT OF REF A, ADDRESSED FOR ACTION TO DAEN2MC-ZA,
IS QUOTED AS FOLLOWS: QUOTE FROM WELLS TO BURNELL. SUBJ: SAUDI
ORDNANCE CORPS PROGRAM.

1. I MADE A COURTESY CALL ON PRINCE SULTAN, MINISTER OF DEFENSE
AND AVIATION, ON 30 JUN -6, DURING THIS CALL, PRINCE SULTAN
BROUGHT UP THE SUBJECT OF THE TRANSFER OF THE SOCP FROM THE CORPS
OF ENGINEERS TO USMTM.

2. PRINCE SULTAN PRESENTED THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. HE FEELS THAT BG AHMANN, CHIEF OF USMTM, HAS BEEN TOO
PERSISTENT IN TRYING TO HAVE SOCP TRANSFERRED TO USMTM. WITH
THE LARGE AMOUNT OF WORK THAT WILL BE GIVEN TO USMTM, THAT

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ORGANIZATION WILL BE VERY BUSY.

B. HE DOES NOT WANT TO TRANSFER SOCP FROM THE CORPS OF ENGINEERS SINCE "WHEN YOU HAVE A GOOD TEACHER, YOU WILL LOSE TIME IF YOU TRANSFER THE STUDENT TO ANOTHER TEACHER".

C. IF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IS PERSISTENT IN INSISTING THAT SOCP BE TRANSFERRED, HE WILL GET ANOTHER COUNTRY TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO THE SAUDI ORDNANCE CORPS.

3. DURING THE CONVERSATION, I POINTED OUT THE LOGIC FOR TRANSFERRING THE PROGRAM TO USMTM. THIS DID NOT CHANGE THE PRINCE'S VIEW, AND HE WAS VERY FIRM IN MAKING THE ABOVE LISTED POINTS. UNQUOTE. WE UNDERSTAND A LETTER TO THIS EFFECT IS ENROUTE FROM PRINCE SULTAN. WILL ADVISE.

3. (S/NFD) SINCE COE/SOCP HAVE PRESENTED A UNITED FRONT WITH USMTM IN ADVISING THEIR COUNTERPARTS ON THIS MATTER, THE VEHEMENCE OF SAUDI OPPOSITION TO THE PROPOSED TRANSFER IS DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND, PARTICULARLY SINCE THE SOLE INTENT WAS TO ENABLE US TO BETTER SERVE THEIR NEEDS. THE FOLLOWING THREE FACTORS OFFER THE BEST EXPLANATION WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DEVELOP.

A. LINGERING RESENTMENT OF USMTM ON THE PART OF CFR, SAUDI ARABIAN ARMY ORDNANCE CORPS, (SAAOC), ARISING FROM THE FACT THAT, AT THE INCEPTION OF SOCP, THEN - CHUSMTM WOULD HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH THE PROGRAM.

B. CDR, SAAOC'S FEAR THAT HE WILL LOSE HIS SEMI-AUTONOMOUS EMPIRE. USMTM HAS PUSHED, AND MODA HAS APPROVED, THE CONCEPT OF FUNCTIONALLY INTEGRATED LOGISTICS. THIS WOULD CONCENTRATE POLICY-MAKING AND CONTROL OF THE PURSE STRINGS IN THE MODA/SAA G4 AND REDUCE SAAOC AND THE OTHER TECH SERVICES TO THEIR PROPER ROLE AS IMPLEMENTORS AND PROVIDERS OF SERVICE. SINCE G4 WOULD INITIALLY REQUIRE SOME CONTRACTOR SUPPORT IN THE COMPTROLLER/DISBURSEMENT AREAS, PREVENTING THE TRANSFER OF THE US CONTRACT ADMINISTRATOR AT LEAST PARTIALLY BLOCKS THE FUNCTIONAL INTEGRATION.

C. PRINCE SULTAN'S FEAR THAT THE UNIQUE FINANCIAL FLEXIBILITY OF FMS CASE HAP, WHICH ENABLES HIM SOMETIMES TO CIRCUMVENT THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE, (PARA 50, ANNEX B, REF B) MAY BE LOST IF THE US SIDE OF HAP ADMINISTRATION IS CHANGED.

4. (C/NFD) WHATEVER THE EXPLANATION, THE PROPOSED TRANSFER IS DEAD. EVEN THE HALF-MEASURE OF GIVING CHUSMTM OPCON OC SOCP WHILE LEAVING CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION UNCHANGED (AS WAS DONE WITH AFLC DET 22) WOULD BE VIEWED BY PRINCE SULTAN AS A THINLY VEILED ATTEMPT TO BYPASS HIS DECISION. NEVERTHELESS, TRUE UNITY OF EFFORT ON THE SECRET

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PART OF ALL US DOD AGENCIES IN SAUDI ARABIA REMAINS AN ABSOLUTE NECESSITY IF THE MAJOR MODERNIZATION PROGRAM OF ALL SAUDI SERVICES ARE TO BE BROUGHT TO A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION IN TERMS OF REAL DEFENSIVE CAPABILITY AND NOT MERELY THE ILLUSION OF SAME. IT IS NO REFLECTION ON EITHER THE ABILITIES OR THE GOOD FAITH OF THE OTHER AGENCIES INVOLVED TO STATE CATEGORICALLY THAT THE "COORDINATION AUTHORITY" NOW VESTED IN CHUSMTM IS TOTALLY INADEQUATE TO ACHIEVE THE REQUIRED DEGREE OF UNITY. OUR

INSTITUTIONAL PERSPECTIVES ARE SUFFICIENTLY DIVERSE THAT WHAT IS BEST FOR ONE CANNOT ALWAYS BE BEST FOR EACH OF THE OTHER, AND SEPARATE AGENCIES REPORTING TO DIFFERENT COMMANDERS INEVITABLY PURSUE THEIR OWN SELF-INTEREST WHEN CONFLICTS ARISE. ONLY WHEN RESPONSIBILITY AND DIRECTIVE AUTHORITY FOR ALL ASPECTS OF OUR SEVERAL PROGRAMS IN SAUDI ARABIA ARE VESTED IN A SINGLE INDIVIDUAL WHO IS ON THE SCENE AND ABLE TO DEAL WITH PROBLEMS AT FIRST HAND ON A DAILY BASIS WILL THE REQUISITE UNITY OF EFFORT BE ACHIEVED. IT IS CLEAR THAT THE SAUDIS ARE NOT PREPARED TO SEE THIS AUTHORITY VESTED IN ANY ONE OF THE AGENCIES NOW IN COUNTRY.

5. (C) RECOMMEND, THEREFOR, THAT NEGOTIATIONS BE OPENED PROMPLY WITH THE SAG TO ESTABLISH IN COUNTRY A SEINOR REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SECDEF WITH A SMALL COORDINATION STAFF AND BOTH RESPONSIBILITY FOR AND DIRECTIVE AUTHORITY OVERALL US DOD AGENCIES IN SAUDI ARABIA: COE/SOCP, AFLC DET 22, PM SANG MODERNIZATION, AND USMTM. IN VIEW OF THE PREPONDERANCE OF ARMY PERSONNEL, IN THE VARIOUS PROGRAMS, THE PRIMACY OF SAA IN MODA COUNCILS, AND THE ARMY-LIKE NATURE OF SANG

,
RECOMMEND FURTHER THAT THIS SENOIR REPRESENTATIVE BE AN ARMY MAJOR GENERAL.

6. (U) RESPECTFULLY.

GDS-84.

UNQUOTE

PORTER

NOTE BY OC/T: EXDIS CAPTION ADDED PER STANDING INSTRUCTIONS
SS-O.

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NNN

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